

helped shape Michelle into the incredible person she is. A fantastic mother whose children will most certainly miss their Gampy.

As my brother and sister and I got older my father transformed into something different. He became our friend, someone you could tell anything to. He was my best friend, the person you wanted to do things with, anything, go to a game, dinner or just drive around the city and talk about anything.

He married his high school sweetheart Jeannette and if you're not familiar with their relationship I can tell you theirs is one of true love and dedication. My mother spent every day in the hospital over the last 3 months with my father. She has sacrificed so much to sit with him and root him on. She is truly a Saint who lost her true love. My heart will forever be broken for her.

Most of you here today know how he lived. Vibrant, larger than life, caring, loving and concerned for anyone who needed help. He loved to laugh and make people laugh. He had an incredible ability to find the positive in any situation. Always optimistic with a heart bigger than the city. He kept his home phone number listed after he became the Mayor, he would get all kinds of calls at all hours of the day and night and he would always return the call. No matter how strange the request. One night around midnight or so, he got a call from a woman on Yale St. whose cat was stuck in a tree, she knew my dad was a firefighter and begged him to call the fire department and get them to her house to retrieve her cat from the tree. My father calmed her down from the comfort of his bed, told her the fire department doesn't really do that sort of thing and she should go to bed and that her cat will come down on its own and then he asked her "by the way, have you ever seen the skeleton of a cat in a tree before?" The point was well taken and sure enough he called her back the next morning and her cat was ok. This was how he lived, finding humor in situations, compassionate towards the needs of others no matter how extraordinary the request. This is how he lived, with a smile on his face and love in his heart. Now I would like to tell you a little bit about how he died.

(adlibbed)

I want you all to know that my father died peacefully this past Sunday surrounded by his family, we were all there and I believe this gave him great comfort. We believe he is in a better place now, no longer suffering.

Over the last few days many people have been telling me how sorry they are about my father's passing but I'm deeply sorry for all of you as well. I feel like we are all in the same boat. Not only did my family lose a father, grandfather, brother, uncle, husband but we all lost a true champion, a best friend and a confidant. The pain in my heart is no greater than yours. I know this because he meant so much to so many and together we will all heal by remembering him as he was. Happy-go-lucky Mike.

His legacy should be carried out by supporting Hartford, eating in its restaurants (hint, hint . . . plug) and getting involved, seeing something that's wrong and doing something about it. He always said no matter if you live in Wethersfield or West Hartford, Simsbury or Rocky Hill, this is your city. We all need to harness his enthusiasm and do our part no matter how big or small because that's truly what he would want. God Bless you Dad and Go Hartford.

EULOGY GIVEN BY GERALDINE SULLIVAN

There were two princes born on Nov. 14, 1948; Prince Charles and our prince, Michael Paul Peters, the firstborn son of Christine and Paul. Michael, Paula, Eleanor, Robert and I were raised in an apartment down the

street, at 189 Campfield Avenue, surrounded by a loving, extended family. This is the neighborhood where my grandfather owned a tailor shop, where we attended church before gathering for late afternoon meals, and where my parents instilled values in each of us that would carry throughout our lives: the importance of family, respect, compassion, and humor. Despite our family's limited resources, envy was not tolerated. Ultimately, my brother Michael exemplified these values better than any of us, even though he had his own unique way of showing it.

At a young age Mike was able to come up with creative solutions to solve life's most difficult problems. I remember when Michael first entered kindergarden at Naylor School. On his way to and from school, there was a group of first grade thugs who would taunt Mike and threaten him. When he told my parents about the situation, my father spent the evening teaching him how to box and defend himself when attacked. It was a priceless father-son moment. The next day, my father rushed home from work to hear the news. When asked if he was bullied again, Mike answered, "No". My father proudly asked, "Well . . . what happened?" Mike was equally proud when he responded, "I took a different route home from school". That was my brother's way throughout his life. He thought of creative solutions. For example, he worked closely with Don Walsh to develop Mayor Mike's Companies for Kids, where they raised \$1 million for youth programs in Hartford.

Another one of Mike's greatest attributes was his ability to treat all people with respect. My father, Paul, was unusual for his time in his ability to reach across racial and economic barriers to show respect for others. In fact, he was so concerned about respect, he enlisted Michael to attend proms and dances with any girl who had circumstances that prevented her from having a date. My parents' friends soon learned of this, so when someone's daughter was left without a date to the prom, they called Paul and Christine. Michael attended proms and dances all around the region. Even though renting a tux and buying flowers was difficult on a meager family budget, Mike put on his tux and attended without complaint. He treated every girl like she was the prom queen. He always had an amazing gift of making people feel special, as witnessed by us over the last few days. Our family has been overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring from people of all races, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds and their stories about our brother. Throughout his life, Mike made powerful connections with people because he treated them with dignity and respect.

A third attribute that I'd like to mention about my brother was his ability to get the job done. I remember when he had a paper route, delivering the afternoon paper of the Hartford Times. Every evening when we sat down to dinner, the phone rang with people looking for papers that were never delivered. My father lectured him every night about the importance of being reliable and having a good work ethic. Eventually the phone stopped ringing during dinner and my father was proud that his son finally learned good business practices. Then one day, my parents were driving home from work and their car was stopped at the light on the corner of Preston and Campfield Avenue. When my father looked out the window, he saw the top of the green city sand box slowly rise. Michael was hiding inside and peering out at the exact same moment. They quickly realized that Mike franchised out his route to ten workers while he laid in a sand box hiding and still managed to make a profit. As mayor, Mike knew how to enlist the talents

of various people to get the job done. His work with John Wardlaw, federal agencies, and community groups resulted in tremendous improvements in the quality of public housing in Hartford.

There are countless stories about Mike's childhood, his days as a fireman, and of course, as mayor of Hartford. The best way to honor him is to share his stories, laugh often, and live by these same attributes that defined my brother: love of family, respect for all, and compassion towards others. One of his favorite sayings was, "you don't have the biggest house on the block by tearing everyone else's house down". Michael could not stand seeing people treated unfairly, and at times he took on unpopular political battles to correct what he felt was wrong. To continue his legacy, have the courage to stand up against injustice and work together to make Hartford, this city that Mike loved with his heart and soul, a place where all people are treated with dignity and respect.

In closing, I'd like to take a minute to say something, on behalf of my entire family about the love of Mike's life, our sister Jeannette. They met in high school and were perfect for each other from the moment they met. Although he loved to go out and be social, while she was content sitting home under a blanket watching her favorite shows, they had deep love and respect for one another. Jeannette has always been the light of my brother's life. Her unwavering devotion was especially obvious over the last three months. She was there with him, by his side . . . holding his hand . . . praying with him. In the last few weeks, when he couldn't speak, his eyes would search the room looking for her, and he only found peace and comfort when he found her. They're the perfect love story and she remained by his side until his last moments on earth. Jeannette, we love you and thank you for making our brother so happy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JOHN L. HELGERSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 37 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man of great integrity and an unerring sense of humor, Mr. John Helgerson, on the occasion of his retirement after 37 distinguished years in the Intelligence Community.

During the last seven years as CIA Inspector General, John has demonstrated the unfailing courage, sense of fairness and independent judgment that Congress envisioned when it created the position of Inspector General. Under his leadership, the Office of the Inspector General grappled with some of the thorniest issues in the Intelligence Community. John is one of those rare few individuals who is always willing to speak truth to power.

Prior to becoming Inspector General, John served as Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, Deputy Director of the former National Imagery and Mapping Agency, now the National Geospatial Agency, and Deputy Director for Intelligence at CIA. There are few individuals in the Intelligence Community with as wide-ranging and distinguished experience as John. Our country is better-informed and safer as a result of his service.

In his retirement announcement, John noted that the country's first Inspector General was appointed by General George Washington to be the "eyes, ears, and conscience of the commander." We are truly fortunate that CIA, and the Intelligence Community as a whole, had John's eyes, ears and conscience throughout his career. We will miss his intelligence, insight and honesty.

As Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I have come to trust and rely on John's good judgment in a variety of sensitive situations. I thank him for working with me to ensure that his office and my committee maintained a professional, productive relationship. I wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DENNY REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. REHBERG. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

The Bill Number: H.R. 1105

The Account: DOJ—COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Project: Missoula Public Safety Operations and Training Center

Amount: \$750,000

Description: The entity to receive funding for this project is the County of Missoula at 200 West Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802. Funding would be used in development and construction of a multi-use facility for local law enforcement, fire, and public health agencies.

Requesting Member: Representative DENNY REHBERG

The Bill Number: H.R. 1105

The Account: Impact Aid

Project: Heart Butte School District

Amount: \$91,000

Description: The entity to receive funding for this project is Heart Butte School District located at Heart Butte School Road in Heart Butte, MT 59448. Impact Aid is a program designed to ensure military children, children residing on Indian lands, and children residing on federally-owned low rent housing facilities receive a quality education by helping school districts, which have lost tax revenue as a result of the federal presence in their district.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the follow information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

DIVISION A—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: California Department of Food and Agriculture

Address of Requesting Entity: 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$581,000 in order to augment local and state contributions to the California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program, and would be used to establish dog teams at strategic locations throughout California. The dog, its handler, and support staff would perform inspection and investigation of incoming shipments, as well as the evaluation of the potential for broad infestation. The California County Pest Detection Augmentation Program is a locally-led inspection program that focuses on agricultural and plant material entering the state at its various points of entry.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: California Department of Food and Agriculture

Address of Requesting Entity: 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$693,000 to help local and state officials detect dozens of threatening pest species, which if left unchecked, could result in an enormously costly and damaging agricultural infestation. Facilitating a vibrant trade in agricultural commodities is good for American farmers and consumers alike. But to maintain food security for the nation and to protect California's natural environment from infestation by invasive species, prudent investments in pest detection at all levels of government must continue.

DIVISION C—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACTS 2009

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reclamation District 2140

Address of Requesting Entity: PO Box 758, Hamilton City, CA 95951

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$832,000 to enable the Corps of Engineers to complete Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) for this ecosystem restoration and flood control project. The Hamilton City, CA flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration project (P.L. 110–114, Sec. 1001(8)) will provide significantly enhanced flood protection to 2,600 area residents and nearby agricultural lands, and will restore approximately 1500 acres of riparian habitat along the Sacramento River. Of the total cost (\$3,359,000), \$840,000 will be borne by the non-federal sponsors.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of California, Department of Water Resources

Address of Requesting Entity: 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$48,000 to investigate the feasibility of in-

creasing the level of flood protection for the urbanized area in the City of Woodland, and possibly some nearby unincorporated lands in Yolo County, from a 1 in 10–year level of flood protection to greater than 1 in 100–year level of flood protection. The non-federal sponsors will share 50% of the total project cost.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, General Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of California, Department of Water Resources

Address of Requesting Entity: 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$669,000 to enable the Corps to complete the Sutter feasibility study and allow state and local interests to initiate corrective work identified by the Corps' study using state and local funds. The non-federal share of the total project cost (estimated \$8,258,000) is estimated to be \$4,100,000.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of California, Department of Water Resources

Address of Requesting Entity: 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,914,000 to be coupled with dedicated State of California funds and enable the Corps of Engineers to complete the project's Limited Reevaluation Report and continue construction and mitigation work for this flood protection effort. This important project includes levee repair and reconstruction along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, specifically consisting of installation of landside berms with toe drains, ditch relocation, embankment modification, and slurry cut-off walls to address seepage and levee boil issues which threaten the performance of flood control structures that protect close to \$100 million worth of public infrastructure and private property.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: State of California, Department of Water Resources

Address of Requesting Entity: 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$22,967,000 for the Sacramento River Bank Protection Project. This project is located within the limits of the existing Sacramento River Flood Control Project (SRFCP) in Northern California. The integrity of various sections of Sacramento River and tributary levees has become seriously eroded, so much so that the State of California issued a statewide emergency declaration to address the levee deficiencies. Much progress has been made to correct the system's weak points, due to support from Congress, the Administration, and the State of California. Additional federal and state funding is required to continue corrective work throughout the Sacramento River system. \$163,000,000 of the total project cost (\$510,700,000) will be borne by the non-federal sponsors.

Requesting Member: Congressman WALLY HERGER